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the enquiry in such cases might be made a fully judicial one and that copies of all records might be ordered to be furnished to the parties applying for them.

In conclusion, the Member requested that Government might be pleased to give a careful and sympathetic consideration to the above grievances of the cherikkal cultivators and take early steps to redress them as much as possible.

Dewan's reply.—The policy of His Highness' Government in regard to cherikkal cultivation was laid down in February 1907 and the Rules for the settlement of cherikkal lands were issued in March 1907. This question of cherikkals was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and I then said that I would go through it with Mr. Kuruvila, the member who brought it up, and see how matters stood. I did so, soon after the last Assembly was over, and I came to the conclusion that the lines on which my predecessor, Mr. Gopalachariar, had proceeded were right and that they should not be altered. Agreeably to the orders already issued, cherikkal settlement is making rapid progress. I have now again read the papers, and I have also considered what the two members have now said, and I must say that we are not prepared to make any material changes now in the rules.

The question of levying acreage value and tree value from jenmam cherikkals is under reference to Government and orders will soon issue on this question. The attention of the Settlement Peishcar will be drawn to the complaints made by Mr. Govinda Pillai about the way in which the orders of Government are, according to the Member, being carried out by the Settlement department.

II. Law, Justice and Police.

14. Necessity for the introduction of standard weights and measures throughout the State.

Mr. T. M. Chithambarathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) said that there was at present no uniformity in the weights and measures in use in the State and that the people were put to great hardship and loss in consequence. He therefore requested that, as in British India, standard weights and measures might be prescribed and issued duly stamped with the Government seal as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Sankara Menon, one of the official members of the Legislative Council, has been asked to introduce a Bill for regulating weights and measures.

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If the Member has any suggestions to make, he might put them in writing and send the same to Government. They will then be forwarded to Mr. Sankara Menon for consideration.

15. Modifications in the Civil Courts Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalay (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that the people of the Quilon taluk which he represented had specially asked him to place before the Assembly their views regarding one of the changes proposed to be introduced by the Civil Courts Regulation Amendment Bill, *viz.*, the provision regarding the enhancement of the ordinary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. It was also resolved at the preliminary meeting of the members of the Assembly held on Saturday, the 7th November, at which about 27 members were present, that the desirability of retaining the jurisdiction of the Munsiffs at its present standard, *viz.*, Rs. 1,000, should be placed before Government as coming from them generally. It could not be considered as any disparagement to the Munsiffs as a class when it is said that, judging from the way in which cases were dealt with in the Munsiffs' Courts and in the District Courts, the people were unable to place as much confidence in the Munsiffs as they did in the District Judges. The volume of work expected out of the Munsiffs (both original and small cause suits) was far too large. Further, the legal assistance that people could get in the Munsiffs' Courts, except in places where there was also a District Court, was not anything like what could be had in the District Courts. For these reasons, he said that the people were against the proposed enhancement of jurisdiction, as they feared that the quality of justice was thereby bound to suffer. Speaking of the amount itself, there could be no doubt that Rs. 2,000 was much more than the worth of an average ryot in Travancore. The reason urged for the proposed change was to relieve the congestion in the Civil Courts; but the Courts which really stood in need of relief were the Munsiffs' Courts and the enhancement of their pecuniary jurisdiction was not a measure calculated to bring about that result. As for the District Courts, substantial relief was afforded to them when the ordinary jurisdiction of Munsiffs was raised to Rs. 1,000 by Regulation I of 1077. In the Quilon District Court, there were only about 170 suits last year. This could not be considered as too much work for a District Judge. The Member therefore requested that the Bill might be modified so as to leave the ordinary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs at Rs. 1,000.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that the small cause jurisdiction of the

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